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Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-05
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R 050831Z AUG 78
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FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: OMANI REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF () STATE 178559, (B) MUSCAT 0992

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO OUR EARLIER REPORT ON OMANI MEDIA COVERAGE OF TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS IN SOVIET UNION, DEPARTMENT MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT A STRONG DENUNCIATION OF SOVIETS OVER THIS ISSUE HAS APPEARED IN MAGAZINE "AL-AKIDA." THIS IS PRIVATELY-OWNED, GOVERNMENT-MONITORED WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN MUSCAT.

2. IN AN EDITORIAL CAPTIONED "VOICES THAT WILL NEVER DIE", THE MAGAZINE SAID IN ITS LATEST EDITION THAT MOSCOW IS TRYING TO PACIFY ITS GROWING INTERNAL OPPOSITION, BUT IN VAIN. SUCH EFFORTS HAVE ONLY STRENGTHENED THE OPPOSITION. "NEITHER IMPRISONMENT NOR MASSACRE WILL BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE THE DEMANDS FOR FREEDOM", THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST EDITORIAL OPINION WE HAVE NOTED IN THE OMANI PRESS ON THIS ISSUE. COVERAGE IN
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THE WRITTEN MEDIA HAS BEEN RATHER SPARSE, AS OUR PREVIOUS REPORT INDICATED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS COVERAGE HAS BEEN MORE AMPLE.
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